Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of maintaining extensible markup language (XML) documents comprising:

splitting an XML document into fragments according to a plurality of rules stored in a configuration file;

binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and

providing a respective reference between the XML document and each of the fragments.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising
storing content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising
associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising
replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising
associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising
detecting an outgoing reference to a object attribute.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising
ensuring the reference is unique.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

setting the rules according to an application.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include configuration rules, the method further comprising:

analyzing content of the XML document using the configuration rules.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include sub-rules.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rules include encoding rules.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include a fragment rule that removes a fragment from the XML document and replaces the fragment with a reference.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration rules include an unparsed object rule that extracts a string associated with an unparsed object and replaces the string with a reference.

14. (Original) The method of 9 wherein the configuration rules include a hyperlink rule that replaces a link to another object attribute with a reference.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the sub-rules include a pattern rule that extracts textual content from a fragment.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the sub-rules include a attribute rule that assigns each object with an attribute type.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the attribute type includes logical object (LOIO) or physical object (PHIO).

18. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the sub-rules include a class rule that provides a class name to an object.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include internal entity encoding rules.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include external name encoding rules.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include unparsed object encoding rules.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein encoding rules include hyperlink encoding rules.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment includes a sub-fragment.

        binding the sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

        providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

24.   (Currently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for executing instructions on a processor, the computer program product being operable to cause a machine to:

        split an XML document into fragments according to a plurality of rules stored in a configuration file;

        bind each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and

        provide a respective reference between the XML document and each of the fragments.

25.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to store the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

26.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to associate the content with a particular object in the content management system.

27.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to replace the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

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28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 further configured to cause the machine to associate multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

29.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the fragment includes a sub-fragment and the computer program product is further configured to:

bind the sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

provide a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

30.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a means for splitting an XML document into fragments according to <u>a plurality of</u> rules <u>stored in a configuration file</u>;

a means for binding each of the fragments to an object in a content management system; and

a means for providing a <u>respective</u> reference between the XML document and <u>each of</u> the fragments.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for storing the content associated with a fragment in the content management system.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for associating the content with a particular object in the content management system.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for replacing the content associated with each fragment with a link to the object in the content management system.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a means for associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

35.   (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising:

a means for binding a sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and

a means for providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

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36.   (Cancelled)

37.   (Cancelled)

38.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[36]]1 further comprising associating [[the]] content with a particular object in the content management system.

39.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[36]]1 further comprising replacing [[the]] content associated with each fragment with a link to [[the]]an object in the content management system.

40.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[36]]1 further comprising associating multiple fragments with a particular object in the content management system.

41.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[36]]1 further comprising:
        binding a sub-fragment to an object in a content management system; and
        providing a reference between the fragment and the sub-fragment.

42.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of rules comprise rules classifying relations between the XML document, the fragments, and the objects, including a rule based on a relation between any two XML fragments that are both part of the XML document, a rule based on a relation between an XML object and an unparsed object that are both part of the XML document, and a rule based on a relation between an XML object that is part of the XML document and an object that is not part of the XML document.

43.   (New) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the plurality of rules comprise rules classifying relations between the XML document, the fragments, and the objects, including a rule based on a relation between any two XML fragments that are both part of the XML document, a rule based on a relation between an XML object and an unparsed object that are both part of the XML document, and a rule based on a relation between an XML object that is part of the XML document and an object that is not part of the XML document.

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44. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the plurality of rules comprise rules classifying relations between the XML document, the fragments, and the objects, including a rule based on a relation between any two XML fragments that are both part of the XML document, a rule based on a relation between an XML object and an unparsed object that are both part of the XML document, and a rule based on a relation between an XML object that is part of the XML document and an object that is not part of the XML document.